



News From

JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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MONROE COUNTY RECOGNIZED AS LEADER IN BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES FOR KIDS

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today announced that his Positive Youth Development project was selected as one of three such projects nationwide to be honored at the Search Institute's fifth annual Healthy Communities - Healthy Youth Conference held earlier this month in Indianapolis.

More than 40 Monroe County youth and adults joined 1800 others from all across the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the conference held November 1-3, 2001. The conference was based on the Search Institute's framework of 40 Developmental Assets, those building blocks that all youth need to grow up healthy, caring and responsible.

At a welcoming presentation, Search Institute President Peter L. Benson recognized Monroe County as one of three metropolitan areas in the United States that demonstrate innovative, practical methods of promoting and implementing healthy youth and community development.

"Monroe County is committed to Positive Youth Development through asset building," said Doyle. "Assets have a tremendous impact on adolescent behavior - both protecting young people from problem behavior and promoting positive behaviors. We are pleased to promote and support this philosophy."

Assets are positive experiences and qualities that help youth make wise choices. The Search Institute in Minnesota has identified 40 assets that have a tremendous influence on young people's lives. Assets protect youth from engaging in destructive behaviors such as tobacco use, substance abuse and criminal activity; while also promoting positive behaviors that we all value, such as success in school and increased self-discipline.

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Doyle's Positive Youth Development initiative was launched in Monroe County in 1996, focusing on creating healthier youth through asset building. To date, the Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau has trained more than 1,000 persons in Positive Youth Development techniques, and a network of school, community, and civic organizations exists to help build healthy communities for youth. Asset programs sponsored by the Rochester-Monroe Youth Bureau include the Racing Against Drugs, the Youth Participation Project, and the Annual Community Asset Celebration.

The annual conference held by Search Institute allows for the exchange of information and ideas among communities. Extending the asset movement into early childhood programs, and encouraging the adoption of Positive Youth Development models in teacher education curricula at the college level are only two of the new initiatives brought back to Monroe County by those in attendance at this year's conference.

For more information on joining Monroe County's Positive Youth Development efforts, please contact the Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau at 428-4950.

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*For further information, call:
Communications and Special Events at 428-2380
See us on the web at www.MonroeCounty.gov*